

## Guidance Document For Hamilton Flood Victims

Hamilton Board of Health wishes to express their concern for the damages done to your home during the recent flooding event. In an effort to maintain a healthy environment when returning to your house the following items are suggested:

1. If your primary source of drinking water is not from the Town Water Department but from an onsite well, please consume only bottled water until the well is tested and shown to be free of bacteria.
2. If your primary heating source includes forced hot air, please refrain from using this facility as it will serve to dissipate mold spores throughout the undamaged house. Please maintain a negative air pressure in the basement by closing the basement access door to the upstairs living area, opening all the windows within the basement and installing a window fan on exhaust in one of the window openings. Portable heaters may be used in conjunction with the fan (s) providing the basement air is removed to the outside. Should the dwelling areas suffer water damage to the sheet rock, the possibility of mold growth on the interior wall side cannot be ruled out.
3. Should your yard be presently flooded in an area known to contain the septic leaching area be advised that normal water usage may result in a sewage backup into the house. Pumping of the septic tank should provide you with three or more days of limited water usage. The long term effects of flooding of the septic leaching area may not be immediately apparent.
4. Please be vigilant in the use of electrical outlets that have been inundated with water. Although air drying of wood and sheetrock may appear to have resisted mold growth, moisture, heat, paper and cellulose are primary catalysts and substrates for long term growth.

Should you have any questions concerning these issues, the Board of Health is there to help.

John Jacobi, Agent